

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of claims is as follows:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base provided to receive a sole of the boot, a disk provided to retain the base on the apparatus, the disk having at least two elongated holes, parallel to one another, which extend through a thickness of the disk, ~~disk in its thickness~~, and at least two screws ~~each~~ extending through respective ones of the an elongated hole, and a holes, and said assembly further comprising a single plate that is parallel to the disk, the plate being slidable sliding along lengths the length of the elongated holes, at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate, ~~plate in its thickness~~, each ~~screw of said at least two screws~~ extending through a respective hole of the plate, and retaining means for retaining the screws on the plate.

Claim 2. (*Original*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is located on the lower portion of the disk.

Claim 3. (*Original*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 4. (*Previously Amended*) A retaining assembly according to claim 3, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 5. (*Original*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the disk has four elongated holes, parallel to one another, aligned in pairs, across from one another in pairs, and wherein the plate has four holes spread to the four corners of a square.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) ~~An A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein~~
for retaining a boot on a sports apparatus, said assembly comprising:

a base provided to support a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the base on the apparatus, the disk having at least three elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk;

at least three screws, said screws provided to extend through respective ones of the elongated holes of the disk;

a plate provided to be positioned parallel to the disk and slidable along a surface of the disk, at least three holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

means for retaining the screws on the plate, all of the at least three ~~two~~ screws provided to extend through respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be supported on the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot;

a disk provided to retain the assembly on the snowboard, the disk having at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of the disk, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;

the two screws extending through a respective ones ~~one~~ of the two elongated holes of the disk, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of the screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate, of each of the two screws being in threaded engagement with a respective one of the holes of the plate.

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Claim 8. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is located beneath the disk.

Claim 9. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 10. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 9, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity of the disk has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 11. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the at least two elongated holes of the disk comprise four elongated holes extending in the same direction, the four elongated holes being arranged in two spaced-apart pairs of elongated holes, and wherein the at least two holes of the plate comprises four holes positioned at four corners of a square.

Claim 12. (*Canceled*)

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) An assembly for retaining a boot on a snowboard, said assembly comprising:

a base adapted to be secured onto the snowboard and adapted to support a sole of the boot;

at least two elongated holes extending through a thickness of the base, each of the two elongated holes being elongated in the same direction;

a single plate positioned for sliding in the direction of the elongated holes, the plate having at least two holes extending through a thickness of the plate;

at least two screws, each of the two screws having a threaded portion and a head;
the two screws extending through a respective ones ~~one~~ of the two elongated holes of the base, all of the at least two screws extending through respective ones of the holes of the plate and, for each of said screws, the head and the threaded portion, after the screw has been screwed through the plate, are positioned on opposite sides of the plate. of each of the two screws being in threaded engagement with a respective one of the holes of the plate.

Claim 14. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the base comprises a circular opening through a thickness of the base and a circular disk nested in the circular opening of the base for rotation within the circular opening of the base, and wherein the at least two elongated holes extend through the disk of the base.

Claim 15. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 14, wherein the plate is positioned beneath the disk.

Claim 16. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 14, wherein the plate is positioned above the disk.

cl. Claim 17. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 14, wherein the plate is housed in a cavity of the disk.

Claim 18. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 17, wherein the plate has a generally square shape, and wherein the cavity of the disk has a generally parallelepipedic shape.

Claim 19. (*Previously Added*) A retaining assembly according to claim 14, wherein the at least two elongated holes of the disk comprise four elongated holes extending in the same direction, the four elongated holes being arranged in two spaced-apart pairs of elongated holes, and wherein the at least two holes of the plate comprises four holes positioned at four corners of a square.

Claim 20. (*Canceled*)

SD Claim 21. (*New*) A retaining assembly according to claim 1, wherein the disk has at least three elongated holes and the plate has at least three holes, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle.

Claim 22. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 21, wherein the disk has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.

Claim 23. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein all of the at least two screws are sized, relative to respective ones of the holes of the plate, to be forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate.

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Claim 24. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is made of plastic and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 25. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plate is made of metal and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 26. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 7, wherein the disk has at least three elongated holes and the plate has at least three holes, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle.

Claim 27. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 26, wherein the disk has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.

Claim 28. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein all of the at least two screws are sized, relative to respective ones of the holes of the plate, to be forcibly screwed through said respective ones of the holes of the plate.

Claim 29. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is made of plastic and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

CV Claim 30. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the plate is made of metal and has a thickness approximately within a range of between 0.5 mm and 3.0 mm.

Claim 31. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 13, wherein the base has at least three elongated holes and the plate has at least three holes, the three holes of the plate being arranged at vertices of a triangle.

Claim 32. (New) A retaining assembly according to claim 31, wherein the base has at least four elongated holes and the plate has at least four holes, the four holes of the plate being arranged at corners of a rectangle.